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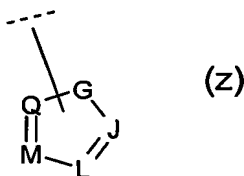
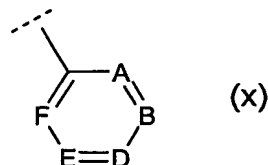
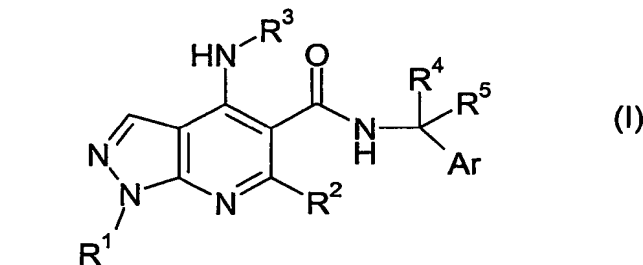
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(54) Title: PYRAZOLO [3,4-B] PYRIDINE COMPOUNDS, AND THEIR USE AS PHOSPHODIESTERASE INHIBITORS



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof, wherein Ar has the sub-formula (x) or (z) and wherein R³ is optionally substituted C₃₋₈cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₅₋₇cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group (aa), (bb) or (cc), or a bicyclic group (ee); and wherein R⁴ is H, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₂fluoroalkyl, cyclopropyl, CH₂OR^{4a}, CH(Me)OR^{4a}, or CH₂CH₂OR^{4a}; and R⁵ is *inter alia* H, C₁₋₈alkyl, C₁₋₈fluoroalkyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, certain substituted alkyl groups, -(CH₂)_n¹³- Het, or optionally substituted phenyl or CH₂-Ph; or R⁴ and R⁵ taken together are -(CH₂)p¹⁻ or (CH₂)p³ X⁵ (CH₂)p⁴⁻; provided that at least one of R⁴ and R⁵ is not a hydrogen atom (H). The invention also provides the use of the compounds as inhibitors of phosphodiesterase type IV (PDE4) and/or for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of inflammatory and/or allergic diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, allergic rhinitis or atopic dermatitis.



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